

RELEASED IN PART
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Colin L. Powell

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior
Reviewer

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with United
Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair,
April 5-7, 2002 at Crawford

Tony Blair is looking forward to the time he and his family will spend with you at Crawford to deepen their personal relationship with you and Laura. Buckingham Palace's approval of the trip despite The Queen Mother's death attests to the importance the British government ascribes to Blair's meeting with you. Blair will want to discuss: Afghanistan; Iraq; the Middle East; Russia and NATO enlargement; and trade and development.

Blair continues to stand by you and the U.S. as we move forward on the war on terrorism and on Iraq. He will present to you the strategic, tactical and public affairs lines that he believes will strengthen global support for our common cause.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Blair and the UK are in Afghanistan with us for the long haul. He readily committed to deploy 1700 commandos, even though his experts warn that British forces are over-stretched. The UK welcomes the active political, military and financial aid the U.S. has provided to persuade Turkey to take on ISAF leadership.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

On Iraq, Blair will be with us should military operations be necessary. He is convinced on two points: the threat is real; and success against Saddam will yield more regional success. Aside from his foreign and defense secretaries, however, Blair's Cabinet shows signs of

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division, and the Labour Party and the British public are unconvinced that military action is warranted now. Blair may suggest ideas on how to (1) make a credible public case on current Iraqi threats to international peace; (2) keep Iraq's neighbors on our side; (3) handle calls for a UNSC blessing that can increase support for us in the region and with UK and European audiences; and (4) demonstrate that we have thought through "the day after."

The UK will follow our lead in the Middle East, but Blair may seek greater U.S. engagement [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He will argue that continued terrorist violence and Israeli military action are rapidly sapping European and Arab support for a tough line against Baghdad.

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

We do not expect Blair to dwell on the steel decision, although it was a bitter blow for him, as he indicated in his recent letter to you. It is clear that Britain will not fight our fight within the EU on this. He may instead stress with you, as he did recently with the Vice President in London, the urgent need to insulate our broader relationship from this and other trade disputes. He may also raise a warning flag about the international trading system, urge the U.S. to continue its trade leadership role and encourage development assistance.

Blair has hit some domestic turbulence. Blamed at home for failing to fix inadequate public services, his (unpublished) poll numbers have fallen to below 50 percent. He is sharply criticized by the media for being too pro-U.S. in foreign and security policy, too arrogant and "presidential" (not a compliment in the British context) and too inattentive on issues of concern to voters.

Blair knows he may have to pay a political price for supporting us on Iraq, and wants to minimize it. Nonetheless, he will stick with us on the big issues. His voters will look for signs that Britain and America are truly equity partners in the special relationship.

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SEC-PRES MEMO: BLAIR VISIT TO CRAWFORD, APRIL 5-7, 2002

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